

## Topic of Importance Response

<b>Deadline for response:</b>	Date submitted – 18.11.22
<b>Topic of Importance:</b>	Respite and Leisure Time <a href="#">Topic of Importance - Respite and Leisure Time</a>
<b>Areas for Consideration:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For the LA to take under consideration the areas of need being identified by parent carers and explore ways to address these.</li> <li>2. For the LA to look at the wider community's short breaks offer and consider the barriers to accessing this and whether more families could benefit.</li> <li>3. For the LA to look at ways of gathering wider parent carer input into the current offer and any future offer.</li> </ol>
<b>Who is this response from?</b> (ie, service, panel, person?) Please consider all relevant areas suggested above, and state where areas are not applicable.	<p><b>Children with Disabilities (CWD) Operational Group (overseen response)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children's Commissioning (CWD &amp; SEND) - Chair</li> <li>- 0-25 Disability Provider Services Managers</li> <li>- 0-25 Disability Service Managers</li> <li>- 0-25 Disability Development Service Manager</li> <li>- Family Voice Parent Representative</li> <li>- Pinpoint Parent Representative</li> <li>- ICB Representation – Learning Disabilities &amp; Autism Children's Commissioner</li> </ul> <p><b>Children with Disabilities (CWD) Development and Delivery Board (approved response)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assistant Director Adults and Safeguarding – chair</li> <li>- Head of Service for 0-25 Disability Social Care</li> <li>- Children's Commissioning (CWD &amp; SEND)</li> <li>- 0-25 Disability Provider Services Managers</li> <li>- 0-25 Disability Development Service Manager</li> <li>- ICB Representation</li> </ul>
<b>Response from local authority / services</b>	<p><b>The current offer</b></p> <p>There is a legal duty on local authorities to make the provision of short breaks available to families with children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The regulations (Children Act 1989 and Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011) define a Short Break as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day time care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere</li> <li>• Overnight care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere</li> <li>• Educational or leisure activities for disabled children outside their homes</li> <li>• Services available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays</li> </ul>

This legislative duty (Children Act 1989, Schedule 2) requires there to be a range of specialist and targeted Short Breaks. In Peterborough we have:



The current service offer was co-produced with Family Voice Peterborough, young people and 0-25 Disability Social Care professionals. Prior to the commissioning of the current service offer, a Short Breaks Needs Assessment was undertaken. Children’s Commissioners also worked alongside the local Parent Carer Forum, Family Voice Peterborough (FVP), to coproduce the offer. This included FVP developing and circulating a questionnaire regarding current knowledge, use and satisfaction of Short Breaks services locally. Views of children and young people were sought through ‘The Big Youth Shout Out’ report. Social care and residential short breaks services colleagues were also engaged through a series of workshops.

These consultation and coproduction exercises led to a series of recommendations including:

- Access to specialist services being decided by relevant decision-making panel.
- A greater focus on review and progression against outcomes.
- More age and needs specific activities; including independence skills for young people and play opportunities for children.
- There being a range of opportunities for weekend and evening support, as well as school holiday times.

Alongside the commissioning of services, Children’s Commissioning undertake contract monitoring; this contract monitoring puts great emphasis on feedback from both parent carers and children/young people.

All services, including though Local Authorities have a statutory duty to provide, have been under pressure due to financial restraints and challenges. Despite this, Children’s Commissioning have sought to ensure the continuity of service provision, and financially invested into the Community Short Breaks offer significantly in recent years. For example, the spend on One to One Support has increased by 101% from 2019-20 to 2021-22, with further increases expected in 2022-23, along with an increase of 10% to the Group Services to increase capacity. Alongside this, children’s Commissioning have submitted bids for funding to ensure the services available have increased capacity to further meet increased demand.

**Eligibility for Short Breaks Services and 0-25 Disability Social Care Team**

Access to specialist services is often linked to children and young people being eligible for 0-25 Disability Social Care. The SEND Information Hub details the threshold for the service. This notes that an assessment will be provided where a child/young person has:

- A presenting need which relates directly to the child's disability.
- A physical, learning and or neuro-developmental disability or condition diagnosed by a doctor or consultant that is substantial, long lasting and permanent.
- Complex needs which in order to achieve outcomes appropriate to their potential, as a result of their disability, the child requires total or substantial support, not appropriate to their age, from another person which is not available within their family or wider network
- Social Care and safeguarding needs that cannot be met without specialist social care assessment.

The disability may include significant and permanent:

- Physical Disability
- Sensory Impairment
- Moderate to Severe Learning Disability
- Global Development Delay
- Complex Health Conditions resulting in significant physical and or learning disability
- Neuro-Development conditions which significantly impact on their ability to undertake activities appropriate to daily living.

### Next Steps

#### **Consultation**

In an effort to avoid duplication and in being conscious of the time pressures placed by parent/carers, Children's Commissioning would like to work with FVP to collate a survey around Community Short Breaks. This will be part of a wider consultation exercise to inform the re-commissioning of Community Short Breaks. A survey to parent carers, and focus groups with parent carers, will be integral to this; as will be the support of FVP. As previously stated, there will also be opportunities to feed directly into the specifications, method statement questions and be part of the evaluation panel to ensure that the Community Short Break offer going forward meets the needs of children and young people with disabilities, and their families, in Peterborough.

Part of the consultation will focus on barriers to access and improving how Community Short Break services, alongside the wider Short Break offer, is communicated. Given the success of the day trips offered by FVP and the themes around family-based leisure activities within this Topic of Importance, we can consider these options within the upcoming Community Short Breaks consultation to understand if there would be a preference for these above the kind of services that make up the current service offer.

Children's Commissioning have recently collated and distributed a Home & Community Support questionnaire for parent carers. The results of which, alongside future focus groups, will directly inform the offer of Home & Community Support going forward.

#### **Uptake & Need**

As Children's Commissioners, a great deal of our focus is on understanding uptake and forecasting demand. In practice, this includes monitoring usage of our Short Breaks alongside analysing demography and feedback from parent carers and children/young people; this feeds into re-commissioning exercises and supports us in working with providers to ensure provision evolves to meet demand. This work is reflected in the Children with Disabilities (CWD)

	<p>Sufficiency Statement, available on the <a href="#">Children’s Commissioning Team website</a>.</p> <p>Understanding uptake and forecasting demand was also vital to informing the contract extension of the Community Short Break contracts. Therefore, prior to the contract extension in April 2022, Children's Commissioning collated a Contract Review &amp; Impact Report. This provided the opportunity to ensure that the service offer was reflective of need and highlighted upon any areas for development. One of these areas for development was within the Large Group services; we found that, despite the service being targeted rather than specialist, some children/young people accessing the services required additional support. We were therefore able to work with the provider to increase their staffing ratios, provide personal care where needed and increase the range of activities available. We also saw an area for development within the Small Group services; some families were telling the provider that they would benefit from holiday only support; this was reflected by feedback from 0-25 Disability Social Care Teams. We therefore worked with the provider to introduce Holiday Only Small Groups to better meet demand.</p> <p>The Contract Review &amp; Impact Report also picked up on a number of wider factors; it outlined that, whilst Peterborough’s overall population was increasing in line with forecasts, the cohort of children and young people in receipt of DLA/PIP was increasing beyond forecasts, as was the number of children/young people open to 0-25 Disability Social Care. It also noted the increase in complexity of need of these children/young people.</p> <p>One of the conclusions of the report was therefore that there needed more sustainable support for children and young people with disabilities not open to Social Care, alongside developing the accessibility and skill-base within universal services. Due to the limited funds available internally, Children’s Commissioning have therefore taken the opportunity of the Short Breaks Innovation Bid to look at opportunities for more targeted support that increases the accessibility of universal services and therefore the support available for children/young people not open to 0-25 Disability Social Care.</p> <p><b>Links to associated papers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Joint Commissioning Board (JCB) paper November 2018 - Community Short Breaks Contracts</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Community Short Breaks – Contract Review &amp; Impact Report Dec 2021-Jan 2022</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Actions / Impact of considerations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In an effort to avoid duplication and in being conscious of the time pressures placed by parent/carers, Children’s Commissioning would like to work with FVP to collate a survey around Community Short Breaks. This will be part of a wider consultation exercise to inform the re-commissioning of Community Short Breaks.</li> <li>• Given the success of the day trips offered by FVP and the themes around family-based leisure activities within this Topic of Importance, we can consider these options within the upcoming Community Short Breaks consultation to understand if there would be a preference for these above the kind of services that make up the current service offer.</li> </ul>